DISTRICT 12 – LPA Newsclips 1992

S12128

S12128

DISTRICT 12 – LPA NEWSCLIPS 1992

These news clips, from 1992, feature activities and events that occurred in Northern California.

The National Conference for LPA was held in the San Francisco/Burlingame area that year and most of the news clips describe events, activities and individuals connected with the conference.

1992 LPA Newsclips District 12
Individuals Featured

Barry, Casey	6-Jul
Barty, Billy	12-Feb
Barty, Billy	13-Apr
Barty, Billy	21-Jun
Barty, Billy	2-Jul
Barty, Billy	3-Jul
Barty, Billy	7-Jul
Barty, Billy	10-Jul
Barty, Billy	13-Jul
Barty, Billy	5-Aug
Carlisle, Marge	10-Jul
Dinner, Nichole	5-Aug
Guzman, David	10-Jul
Mayeaux, Angela	7-Jul
Mayeaux, Angela	7-Jul
Murphy, Cheryl	13-Jul
Norman, Eileen	5-Aug
Norman, Kate	5-Aug
Norman, Kathy	5-Aug
Norman, Peter	5-Aug
Pucella, Rudy	7-Jul
Randles, Tim	13-Jul
Rappaport, David	5-Aug
Roloff, Matt	5-Jul
Roloff, Matt	7-Jul
Roloff, Peggy	7-Jul
Roloff, Peggy	7-Jul
Roloff, Sam	7-Jul
Romano, Jennifer	10-Jul
Stickney, Al	24-Jun
Stickney, Al	3-Jul
Stickney, Harriet	24-Jun
Stickney, Harriet	3-Jul
Trombino, Betsy	10-Jul
Trombino ,Mark	10-Jul
Zukas, Janie	7-Jul

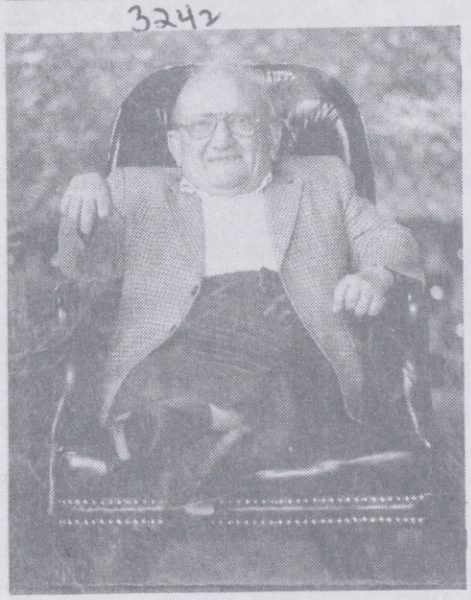
Santa Rosa, CA
(Sonoma Co.)
Press Democrat
(Cir. D. 79,400)
(Cir. S. 88,000)

FEB 12 1992

Allen's P. C. B Est. 1888

FORE THE BENEFIT

3242



Actor Billy Barty saw lots of green last week — from pesto polenta to local golf courses.

Swinging into town

Actor Billy Barty, a very small man with an uncommonly big heart, was in Sonoma County last week promoting a golf tournament to benefit the Little People of America.

The 3-foot-9-inch Barty, whose 200 movies include "Day of the Locust" and "Foul Play," founded the organization in 1957 to improve the lives of dwarves. The benefit golf tourney will be held somewhere in Sonoma County this spring.

During his brief stay, the tireless 67-year-old showman was treated to a dinner of pasta, pesto polenta, sausage and potatoes by "Pasta King" Art Ibleto of Cotati. Barty's eyes grew huge when he saw his piled-high plate. "What are you trying to do?" he asked Ibleto. "Make me grow?"

So. San Francisco, CA
(San Mateo Co.)
Enterprise Journal
(Cir. 2xW. 15,501)

MAR 14 1992

Allen's P. C. B Est. 1888

Little People set meeting Saturday

3242

The Little People of America, a self-help organization for people 4-feet-10-inches tall or shorter, will hold a regional conference at the Marriott hotel, Burlingame, Saturday.

The conference will be attended by 150 little people. Also featured will be an athletic competition in boccie ball, volleyball and power lifting. Conferees will also work on planning for the upcoming national conference of the group in San Francisco in July.

For more information on Little People of America and the conferences, call Daniel Margulies, (707) 746-0484.

Davis, CA
(Yolo Co.)
Enterprise
(Cir. 5xW. 9,700)

APR 1 3 1992

Allen's P. C. B Est. 1888

DISABILITY

Continued from Page A-1

able in the Memorial Union II.

On Friday the wheelchair obstacle course will take place featuring teams of faculty, staff and students. The course is designed to simulate barriers that wheelchair users face in daily life. A KDVS disc jockey will emcee the event on the Silo courtyard at noon.

In 1990, President Bush signed the Americans With Disabilities Act to protect persons with disabilities from discrimination in employment and other areas. The regulations take effect July 26.

At UCD, officials are reviewing accessibility and employment practices. 3242

For more information, phone Disability Awareness Week co-chairs Irene Day at 752-6287 or Connie Burton at 752-3184.

Spotlight on disabilities at UCD this week

♦ Public is invited to all activities for Disability Awareness Week

3242

By ELISABETH SHERWIN
Enterprise staff writer

Today is the first day of Disability Awareness Week at UC Davis, which will be highlighted by a wheelchair obstacle course, the guest appearance of an physically disadvantaged actor and panel discussions taking place at the university daily at noon. All events are free and the public is invited.

At noon today a one-act play, "Oz and Beyond," was performed in the Main Theater. Disadvantaged students and staff made up the cast.

According to statistics collected by the university, out of 5,720 career staff, 49 identified themselves as being disabled in some manner. Out of approximately 1,285 ladder-rank faculty, 15 identified themselves as having a disability.

And 369 students (out of approximately 23,000 graduates and undergraduates) requested services in the academic year 1990-91 from the Disability Resource Center on campus.

The services provided by the DRC include counseling on disabilities, sign language interpreting, readers for the visually impaired, note-taking services (for those who have difficulty writing), books on tape, Braille and large-print books, campus shuttle services, personal attendant referrals, tutoring and emergency wheelchair repairs.

Disability Awareness Week continues Tuesday with actor Billy Barty, founder of "Little People of America," who will describe his life and the impact his organization has had on the entertainment industry. He will speak at noon in the Main Theater on campus.

On Wednesday, a panel will discuss mental illness and chemical dependency in the workplace at noon in the Memorial Union II and on Thursday a noon film called "Bridging the Talent Gap" will be followed by a question-and-answer period on how accommodations are made for employees with disabilities. Free popcorn and beverages will be avail-

See DISABILITY, Page A-

Davis, CA
(Yolo Co.)
Enterprise
(Cir. 5xW. 9,700)

APR 1 5 1992

Allen's P. C. B Est. 1888

Little actor espouses sensitivity to disabled

♦ Billy Barty tells UCD audience that a positive attitude is essential 3242

By ELISABETH SHERWIN
Enterprise staff writer

When Billy Barty was a child, his ambition in life was to go to the candy store and buy candy like the other kids.

He could walk. He could talk. He even had money in his pockets. What was the problem?

Barty's problem was this: His arms were too short to reach into the pockets of his shorts. His father had to teach him to stand on his head and spin so the change would fall out of his pockets. That way, Barty could retrieve his money and pay for his candy.

Barty as an adult is 3 feet, 9 inches tall. He is a little person in a big world who runs into obstacles all the time that average people don't think about twice.

For instance, it's very hard for him to make a phone call from a public phone. He can reach the receiver, but not the change box. And public restrooms are a disaster. In public buildings, the placement of light switches, door knobs and doorbells almost always causes difficulty.

Barty doesn't call for the elimination of all these architectural barriers, but he asks for sensitivity. He doesn't ask that architects start building three different size doors in every building, but he

See BARTY, Page A-3

Enterprise photo/ Alison Portello

Billy Barty, who founded Little People of America in 1957 to combat prejudices and educate people about choices, speaks at UC Davis' Main Theater Tuesday as part of Disability Awareness Week on campus.

BARTY

Continued from Page A-1

asks for some compromise when it comes to locating the door knob.

Barty came to the UC Davis campus on Tuesday as the keynote speaker for the university's sixth annual Disability Awareness Week.

He described his career as an actor in Hollywood, which began when he was 3. Billy and his family (he comes from average-size parents) moved to Hollywood from Pennsylvania. One day they were out walking when they saw a movie director shooting a scene. Billy decided to spin on his head. The director saw him, and Billy's future in pictures was assured.

Barty showed a film montage of his work, which extended from comedy classics of the 1930s to "Harem Scarem," a movie with Elvis Presley, and "The Day of the Locust," "W.C. Fields and Me," "Under the Rainbow," "Foul Play," and "Willow."

"The only space you have to conquer is between your ears," says Barty. He believes that people can accomplish anything if they have the right attitude. He credits his family for never discouraging him and telling him he was too small to do something.

"I have two things going against me," Barty said frankly. "I'm a Scorpio and I'm Italian."

Barty said he formed Little People of America in 1957 when little people had limited choices about their lives. "The only choice was to be in the circus," he said.

Today, attitudes have changed, he said.

"We have little people who are school teachers, judges and lawyers," Barty said.

"We are trying to educate the public and ourselves — we have to accept ourselves."

As part of Disability Awareness Week, the Governor's Committee for Employment of Disabled Persons has issued guidelines on preferred and outdated phrases for references of those with disabilities.

Terms such as "confined to a wheelchair," "deaf and dumb" or "crippled" convey biases and negative attitudes toward the disabled. 3242

Preferred terminologies include: blind, deaf, developmentally disabled, differently able, disabled, hearing impaired, mentally/emotionally disabled, mentally restored, mentally retarded, mobility impaired, multi-handicapped, non-disabled, paralyzed, persons with cerebral palsy, persons with disabilities, persons with paraplegia, seizure, visually impaired, and wheelchair user.

Antioch, CA
(Contra Costa Co.)
Daily Ledger-Post
Dispatch
(Cir. D. 21,923)

JUN 2 1 1992

Allen's P. C. B Est. 1888

Little People to gather in SF in July

3252

SAN FRANCISCO — The Little People of America will host a national conference will be held July 3-10 at the San Francisco Airport Marriott Hotel.

The conference will feature workshops, health seminars, talent and fashion shows and olympic competitions. For more information, call Joan Hare at 1-415-348-1063.

West Covina, CA
(Los Angeles Co.)
San Gabriel Valley
Daily Tribune
(Cir. D. 59,500)
(Cir. SA. 63,606)
(Cir. SU. 81,200)

JUL 7 - 1992

Allen's P. C. B. Est. 1888

Billy Barty speaks up about Hollywood

3252

By Robin D. Givhan
San Francisco Chronicle

Billy Barty got his big break in show business by spinning on his head.

Movie know-it-alls will match the name with films such as "Day of the Locust," "Willow" and "Under the Rainbow." Most everyone else will simply identify the face as the one belonging to the little person they've seen on TV and in all those movies.

Just to clarify, Barty was not the shark lawyer on "L.A. Law." That was David Rappaport, who died in 1990. Nor was Barty the guy who announced incoming planes on "Fantasy Island." That was Herve Villechaize.

Barty, 67, has only two things in common with those other actors — all three have had some Hollywood success and all three are shorter than average. Barty stands 3 feet 9 inches tall and is the founder of Little People of America, whose annual convention begins this week in San Francisco.

But people get confused about Barty. They think short, they think actor. Soon they've made a muddle of three very different careers. And rather than shuffling about in politically correct silence, Barty would much rather get to the point.

And so, back to ... the spinning.

Barty was spinning because his father had taught him how. As a 3-year-old of short stature and disproportionately short arms, Barty couldn't reach the bottom of his pockets and dig out coins. Dad — he was a normal-sized dad — had the nifty notion of an upside-down spin to make the coins fall out. This procedure worked so well that Barty would flip and spin whenever he needed to retrieve anything from his pockets.

These early gymnastic lessons were in small-town Pennsylvania, where Barty was born. Barty's father knew his son would never work in the Pennsylvania coal mines — a major employer at the time. So Dad, a machinist who played drums, piano and violin in a small band, moved the family to California.

Now it's 1927, the family has just settled in Hollywood, and Barty is an expert spinner. The family wanders onto a movie set. Film makers back then shot many movies on the street. Barty does his spinning trick and in a flash he's plucked from the street and plopped into a movie.

His role? To be cute.

That was the beginning of a 65-year-long show-biz career, which has included performances in everything from vaudeville to drama. Over that many years, cuteness fades. Wisdom arrives. Savviness grows. Crankiness sets in.

"I think Hollywood is worse than it used to be. How many little people do you see doing news, doing comedy, doing commercials? None," Barty says.

"In the days when there were lots of variety shows, (Hollywood) used more little people. They used to work in variety shows. What happened? Lack of imagination."

Barty also is a bit annoyed over missing an Oscar nomination, which he suspects may be tied to his short stature.

"I've done roles like 'Day of the Locust,' which was a pretty heavy part," Barty says. "Lots of critics thought I should have gotten a nomination."

And don't forget the gap between public reaction and Hollywood assumption.

"I wish Hollywood realized how the general public looks at me. It surprises me that I'm that popular anymore, like ..." Barty pauses and grasps for the name of a star who also happens to be alive, but comes up empty. "... like Clark Gable. And I haven't made a film in 1½ years."

But Barty is, of course, still performing. Call him Mr. Hollywood. He doesn't just shake hands, he kisses them. He doesn't simply smile for the camera, he mugs for it. He doesn't just play golf, he wins charity tournaments.

And he doesn't just campaign for a cause, he's the celebrity spokesman.

Barty helped found the Little People of America.

So. San Francisco, CA
(San Mateo Co.)
Pacific Coastside Chronicle
(Cir. 2xW. 7,255)

JUN 2 4 1992

Allen's P. C. B Est. 1888

BESSIE BAUGHN

Area 'Little People' playing big roles at nat'l convention

July 3-10 the National Convention of Little People of America will be held at the Airport Marriott Hotel in Burlingame.

Chairman Joan Hare of Burlingame has been planning the event which is expected to attract over 800 little people from around the world. Longtime San Bruno residents Al and Harriet Stickney are serving as registration chairman and parents and the children's activites chairman. Harriet who will have her hands full keepingh around 100 children busy.

Al has lived in San Bruno for 37 years and Harriet 25 years. On July 1 this happy couple will celebrate their 25th anniversary.

Harriet and Al appear at many functions and are entertaining speakers as thhe relate so many interesting problems that little people have in a big man's world. Last time they were at the San Bruno Senior Center they brought pictures of their home showing the numerous inventions and adjustments to ordinary living that we may take for granted.

Little People of America was founded in 1957 with 5000 members, 12 regional and 46 local groups. Their primary purpose is to provide fellowship, interchange of ideas, moral support, and solutions to unique problems of little people; to promote good faith, fair dealings, better relations and understanding of their small size by other members and average-size people.

The organization conducts discussions with parents of dwarf children, works to bring together little couples interested in adoption and adoption agencies that have children of this type available. LPA cooperates with medical institutions and maintains medical advisory board. It operates Short Stature Medical Library, maintains biographical archives, organizes speakers' bureau and bestows annual distinguished service awards.

The LPA motto is "Think Big."

For further information, you may contact Al and Harriet Stickney at 589-0695.

San Francisco, CA
(San Francisco Co.)
Chronicle
(Cir. D. 630,954)
(Cir. S. 508,500)

JUL 2 - 1992

Allen's P. C. B. Est. 1888

Cute to Cranky: A Movie Career

65-year veteran just wants respect

3252

BY ROBIN D. GIVHAN
CHRONICLE STAFF WRITER

Billy Barty got his big break in show business by spinning on his head.

Movie know-it-alls will match the name with films such as "Day of the Locust," "Willow" and "Under the Rainbow." Most everyone else will simply identify the face as the one belonging to the little person they've seen on TV and in all those movies.

But just to clarify, Barty was not the shark lawyer on "L.A. Law." That was David Rappaport, who died in 1990. Nor was Barty the guy who announced incoming planes on "Fantasy Island." That was Herve Villechaize.

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That was the beginning of a 65-year-long show-biz career, which has included performances in everything from vaudeville to drama. Over that many years, cuteness fades. Wisdom arrives. Savvi-

See Page D6, Col. 5

BY FREDERIC LARSON/THE CHRONICLE

Actor Billy Barty is in town for the convention of the Little People of America, an organization he founded.

San Mateo, CA
(San Mateo Co.)
Times
(Cir. 6xW. 48,793)

JUL 1 - 1992

P. C. B. Est. 1888

Dwarf Athletic Association to hold events on Peninsula

3252

BURLINGAME — As part of the national conference of the Little People of America, the Dwarf Athletic Association will conduct a number of sporting events on the Peninsula beginning Friday.

The conference is set to be held Friday through July 10 at the San Francisco Airport Marriott Hotel in Burlingame.

The sports competition serves as a preliminary for the 1992 Para-Olympic Games slated for Barcelona after the Olympic Games.

Other than bocce ball competition, all sports activities will take place at the College of San Mateo.

Here is the schedule:

- Friday, basketball, 4 to 6 p.m. and 7 to 9 p.m.
- Saturday, swimming, 8 a.m. to noon.
- Saturday, field events, 1 to 5 p.m.
- Sunday, track events, 8 a.m. to noon.
- Monday, July 6, power lifting, 8 a.m. to noon.
- Tuesday, July 7, volleyball, 1 to 6 p.m.
- Wednesday, July 8, bocce ball, 8 a.m. to noon.
- Thursday, July 9, bocce ball, 8 to 11 a.m.
- Friday, July 10, bocce ball, 8 a.m. to noon.

Additionally, a basketball clinic for children between the ages of 7 and 15 is scheduled Sunday from 1 to 3 p.m. at CSM.

Dwarf's Film Career Was a Spin-Off

San Francisco, CA
(San Francisco Co.)
Chronicle
(Cir. D. 630,954)
(Cir. S. 508,500)

JUL 2 - 1992

Allen's P. C. B Est. 1888

From Page D3

ness grows. Crankiness sets in.

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"In the days when there were lots of variety shows, (Hollywood) used more little people. They used to work in variety shows. What happened? Lack of imagination."

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Still Performing

But Barty is, of course, still performing. Call him Mr. Hollywood. He doesn't just shake hands, he kisses them. He doesn't simply smile for the camera, he mugs for it. He doesn't just play golf, he wins charity tournaments. And he doesn't just campaign for a cause, he's the celebrity spokesman — which is why he has come to San Francisco.

The Little People of America convention runs tomorrow to Wednesday. Barty helped found the nonprofit organization in 1957 to bring little people — folks who measure 4-foot-10 and less — together for social events and educational workshops. The group also offers workshops for parents and siblings of little people. The whole Barty family will come up from North Hollywood for this convention. Barty's wife, Shirley, and his 29-year-old daughter are both little people. Barty's two sisters and his 21-year-old son are all average height.

Barty was the first Little People president. Now his job is to get publicity for the organization with his name and résumé. Barty says he plays the publicity game "to educate the average-size world and to educate and help the little people themselves and show them how they can help themselves."

'But You *Are* Short'

Help begins, says Barty, with honesty. Barty once talked to a short-statured child who was being unruly in school. The boy was kicking other children because they were calling him short. Said Barty, "But you *are* short. I'm short. So what?"

As for this business of euphemistic terminology such as "vertically challenged," please, says Barty, give it a rest. Midget, dwarf, short. It's not the terminology that counts, it's attitudes.

"When I first started the LPA, you were either a midget or a dwarf. At the time, dwarf had bad connotations. Everyone wanted to be called a midget," Barty says. "Now we don't mind dwarf.

"Besides, terminology is an adult obsession. Kids naturally speak the truth, which can sometimes sound cruel.

"I was having dinner in a restaurant when my daughter was young," Barty says, "and she announced, 'I'm a dwarf. My daddy's a dwarf and my mommy's a dwarf. Now can we eat?' "

'I'm a dwarf. My daddy's a dwarf and my mommy's a dwarf. Now can we eat?'

Cruel Lies

Teenagers and adults often ignore the truth and spew cruel lies.

"I was playing a golf tournament in Dayton, Ohio. I was up very early and having breakfast, when this guy looks at me and just starts laughing and says, 'When are you going to grow up?' I just looked at him and said, 'I have. When are you?' " Barty smiles with satisfaction as he tells this story. "The guy was so dumb, he didn't even get it."

Barty gets a little giddy whenever he gets the upper hand, whether it's with a witty remark or a surprising tale. Like when he mentions playing football and basketball as a college student in Southern California in the mid-'40s. Football?

"The only thing the coach said, without insulting me, was, 'We don't have a uniform,' " Barty says. So the young man went home and asked his mom to make a uniform. Barty returned to the coach a few days later. The coach said, "Come back in four days." In four days, the coach had written a few plays for Barty and he was on the team. At 86 pounds, he could run 50 yards in 7.2 seconds.

And what about basketball?

Whenever he was put into the game, the opposing team thought it was the butt of a joke. But Barty didn't care.

"Success is if you've tried and you do your very best. Then you have succeeded," Barty says. "I wasn't first-team basketball or second team. But I played." 3252

The opportunity to play in

part 2/2

San Mateo, CA
San Mateo
Times
July 3rd 1992

All 3252

Will's Place

By Will E. Thomas
Times Columnist

It makes sense that the Little People of America, which opened its national convention today in Burlingame, maintains an interest in the American Disabilities Act. It's not just that many dwarfs have physical problems, it also makes dealing with aspects of everyday life easier.

Take the simple act of reaching the coin slot of a pay telephone, for instance — something we 6-footers take for granted. Having some phones at wheelchair-height today is not only ideal for the handicapped, but for the little people, as well. As with most dwarfs, San Bruno resident **Harriet Stickney** knows from experience.

Harriet, who is working on convention registration and parents and children's activities committees with husband **Al**, recalls having to deal with just that problem while a graduate student in Milwaukee, Wis. It stands out in her mind, she says, because it was about 10:30 on a wintry night.

A woman with a marvelous sense of humor, she chuckles as she recalls relatives accusing her of being "a bit dramatic" about it. But without the help, finally, of an average-size passerby, a woman, "I could have frozen to death," Harriet insists.

Another example of the more common tribulations of being little: dealing with a kitchen designed for average-sized people. The kitchen of the Stickneys' Cypress Street home has been customized to take their sizes into account — Harriet is 4 feet 2 inches and Al is 4 feet 6. A difficult part of the project, she says, was finding someone to do the job. They finally found a man "who accepted the redesign as a challenge."

Other rooms in the home are unchanged. Furnishing them, though, has taken patience, since each piece is carefully selected for how it fits in with them.

Al has lived in San Bruno for 37 years, Harriet for 25 years. They celebrated their 25th wedding anniversary Wednesday. They don't think their size makes a difference in their neighborhood — "We're 'just part of the gang'," Harriet says.

Dealing with kids of any size isn't a very big problem for Harriet. She taught primary grades in Wisconsin schools for 12 years. She "had her moments" there, yet she says "the kids were great once they got used to the idea" of someone their own size being the teacher. The larger fourth-graders tended to be quite helpful, too.

While Harriet and Al have no children of their own, they've been working with the parents of dwarf children for some 25 years, and she points out that despite being small they are typical young people. In other words, folks, a teen-ager of any size is still a teen-ager.

The Stickneys, like most dwarfs — there are 200 types of them — are the children of average-size parents. Harriet grew up on a Wisconsin dairy farm, where all the youngsters had chores to do. That included Harriet, although some of her duties were selected to accommodate her size. But her stature could not be used as an excuse not to do something, she says. Plus, she says, she was "made to feel important."

Al's dad was in the Army, and they moved around. But his wife considers his roots to be in New England.

Harriet doesn't know exactly how many dwarfs there are on the Peninsula, but she guesses about 20 to 25, including Burlingame's **Joan Hare**, the convention's chairwoman. She suspects there may be others, some of whom "don't acknowledge their dwarfism."

Little People of America is a non-profit self-help organization for people who stand 4 feet 10 or under, as well as for average-size family members. Through it, the 4,000 members gain support, fellowship and helpful information about the unique challenges of being short-statured.

The 1957 founder of the LPA, actor **Billy Barty**, plans to attend the convention, which will run through July 10 at the Airport Marriott hotel, to help celebrate the Little People of America's 35th anniversary.

Will's Place appears here each Friday. Will Thomas may be contacted by phone at 348-4364 or by mail at 1080 South Amphlett Blvd, San Mateo Ca 94402-1802.

SAN FRANCISCO 92

LITTLE PEOPLE OF AMERICA
NATIONAL CONFERENCE

SCHEDULE FOR 1992 LPA CONFERENCE

Friday – July 3rd

9:00 am – 5:00 pm .....**Registration** – Marina
4:00 pm – 6:00 pm **DAAA Basketball** – College of San Mateo (CSM)
7:00 pm – 9:00 pm .....**DAAA Basketball** – CSM
7:00 pm – 10:00 pm ....**Hospitality Party** –
9:00 pm – 1:00 am .....**Dancing** – Ballrooms F-J

Saturday – July 4th

8:00 am – 12 noon .....**DAAA Swimming** – CSM
9:00 am – 5:00 pm .....**Registration** – Marina
11:00 am – 12 noon .....**General Information Meeting** – Ballrooms B-D
1:00 pm – 5:00 pm .....**DAAA Field** – CSM
4:00 pm – 5:30 pm .....**LPAF Board Meeting**
5:30 pm – 10:00 pm ....**San Francisco Giants Baseball Game and Fireworks** – Candlestick Park
6:30 pm – 8:30 pm .....**Old Fashion 4th of July Picnic** ***Debbie Morris, guest speaker - "A CALL FOR CELEBRATION: LPA & ADA"*** – Ballrooms F-J
9:00 pm – 1:00 am .....**Dancing** – Ballrooms F-J

Sunday – July 5th

8:00 am – 12 noon .....**DAAA Track** – CSM
8:00 am – 9:00 am .....**Devotion (Church Service)** – Ballroom B
9:00 am – 3:00 pm .....**LPA National Board Meeting** – Santa Clara
9:00 am – 5:00 pm .....**Registration** – Marina
10:00 am – 4:00 pm .....**Expo (ongoing)** – San Ramon
11:00 am – 12 noon .....**First Convention Attendees Meeting** – Monterey
11:00 am – 12 noon .....**Parents Attending for the First Time** – Newport/Irvine
12 noon – 1:00 pm .....**General Information Meeting** – Ballrooms B-D
1:00 pm – 6:00 pm .....**DAAA Basketball** – CSM
2:00 pm – 4:00 pm .....**Parents & Medical Advisory Board Welcoming Tea** – Ballroom E
5:00 pm – 6:00 pm .....**Medical Advisory Board Meeting (medical people only)** – Ballroom G
7:00 pm – 9:00 pm .....**Parents Workshop (average-sized only)** – Newport/Irvine
7:00 pm – 8:30 pm .....**Special Children's Program**
7:30 pm – 9:00 pm .....**An Open Forum About LP Sex (open to 13 and older only)** ***Beth Tatman, moderator - "IS THERE A SEXUAL PROBLEM?"*** – Ballrooms G-J
9:00 pm – 1:00 am .....**Card Room (open)** – Foyer
9:30 pm – 1:30 am .....**Dancing** – Grand Ballrooms

Monday – July 6th

8:00 am – 9:00 am .....**National Board Meeting** – Santa Clara
8:00 am – 12 noon .....**DAAA Power Lifting** – CSM
8:30 am – 11:00 pm ....**Parents Room (open)** – Newport/Irvine
8:45 am – 12 noon .....**Kids Room (open)** – Anaheim
9:00 am – 9:45 am .....**Parents Meeting** – Newport/Irvine
9:00 am – 12 noon .....**Registration** – Marina
10:00 am – 11:30 am ....**General Information Meeting** – Ballroom E
10:00 am – 4:00 pm .....**Expo (ongoing)** – San Ramon
10:30 am – 11:30 am ....**Teen Rap Session (teens only)** –
11:30 am – 12:30 pm ....**Group Photo** – Front of Hotel
12:30 pm – 1:45 pm .....**Medical Workshops – 1st session** – Ballrooms A-D,G,J
12:45 pm – 3:25 pm .....**Kids Room (open)** – Anaheim
1:00 pm – 6:00 pm .....DAAA Basketball – CSM
2:00 pm – 3:15 pm .....**Medical Workshops – 2nd session** – Ballrooms A-D,G,J
4:00 pm – 5:30 pm .....**Fashion Show Rehearsal** – Ballrooms F-J
6:00 pm – 7:00 pm .....**Dinner Meal Plan** –Ballrooms A-B
7:30 pm – 9:00 pm .....**Fashion Show** – Ballrooms F-J
9:00 pm – 1:00 am .....**Card Room (open)** – Foyer
9:30 pm – 1:30 am .....**Dancing** – Grand Ballrooms

Tuesday – July 7th

8:30 am – 5:00 pm .....**Parents Room (open)** – Newport/Irvine
8:45 am – 12 noon .....**Kids Room (open)** – Anaheim
9:00 am – 4:45 am .....**Parents Meeting** – Newport/Irvine
9:00 am – 12 noon .....**Kids Room (open)** – Anaheim
9:00 am – 12 noon .....**Registration** – Marina
9:00 am – 1:30 pm .....**Workshop Personal Development – 1st session** – Ballrooms A-D,G,J, Santa Clara, Monterey
9:30 am – 10:30 am ....**LPAF Board Meeting**
10:00 am – 4:00 pm .....**Expo (ongoing)** – San Ramon
10:30 am – 12 noon .....**General Membership Meeting (1993 & 1994 Conference Bids)** – Ballrooms G-I
12:30 pm – 2:00 pm .....**Kids Talent Show Rehearsal** – Ballrooms F-J
12:45 pm – 2:25 pm .....**Kids Room (open)** – Anaheim
1:00 pm – 2:15 pm .....**Workshops Personal Development & "Small Talk" – 2nd session** – Ballrooms A-D
1:00 pm – 7:00 pm .....**DAAA Volleyball** – CSM
2:30 pm – 4:00 pm .....**Kids Talent Show** – Ballrooms F-J
2:30 pm – 4:30 pm .....**Chapter Officers Meeting** –
4:30 pm – 6:00 pm .....**Adult Talent Show Rehearsal** – Ballrooms F-J
6:00 pm – 7:00 pm .....**Dinner Meal Plan** – Ballrooms A-B
7:30 pm – 9:00 pm .....**Adult Talent Show** – Ballrooms F-J
9:00 pm – 12:00 pm ....**Live Jazz Band** – Newport/Irvine
9:00 pm – 1:00 am .....**Card Room (open)** – Foyer
9:30 pm – 1:30am .....**Dancing** – Grand Ballrooms

Wednesday – July 8th

8:00 am – 12 noon .....**DAAA Boccia** – Ballrooms E-F
8:30 am – 10:30 am ....**National Board Meeting** – Santa Clara
8:30 am – 11:00 pm ....**Parents Room (open)** – Newport/Irvine
8:45 am – 12 noon .....**Kids Room (open)** – Anaheim

9:00 am – 9:45 am .....**Parents Meeting** – Newport/Irvine
9:00 am – 11:00 am ....**Registration** – Marina
10:00 am – 12:00 am ....**Teen Outing to *Hard Rock Café*** – San Francisco
10:15 am – 12 noon .....**Panel Discussion – *Paul Miller, Angela Van Etten, & Michael Winter - CIVIL & LEGAL RIGHTS OF LPs*** – Ballrooms E-F
10:30 am – 9:30 pm .....**Fisherman's Wharf and Bay Cruise** - San Francisco
12:45 pm – 3:55 pm .....**Kids Room (open)** – Anaheim
1:00 pm – 2:15 pm .....**Workshop – 1st session** – Ballrooms A-D,G, J, Monterey
2:30 pm – 3:45 pm .....**Workshop – 2nd session** – Ballrooms A-D,G, J
— no Meal Plan, Dinner on your own —
9:00 pm – 1:00 am .....**Card Room (open)** – Foyer
9:30 pm – 1:30 am .....**Dancing** – Grand Ballrooms

Thursday – July 9th

8:00 am – 11:00 am ....**DAAA Table Tennis** – Ballrooms E-F
8:00 am – 11:00 am ....**DAAA Boccia** – Ballrooms E-F
8:30 am – 9:30 am .....**LPAF Board Meeting** –
8:30 am – 11:00 pm ....**Parents Room (open)** – Newport/Irvine
8:45 am – 12 noon .....**Kids Room (open)** – Anaheim
9:00 am – 10:30 am ....**Parents Meeting** – Newport/Irvine
9:00 am – 11:00 am ....**Registration** – Marina
9:30 am – 10:30 am ....**LPA National Board Meeting** – Santa Clara
10:00 am – 11:30 am ....**General Membership Meeting (open forum)** – Ballrooms G-H
11:30 am – 5:30 pm:
Tour #1 – **Golden Gate Park (Museum, Aquarium, Japanese Tea Garden)**
Tour #2 – **Tour of San Francisco (major attractions)**
Tour #3 – **Tour Muir Woods (Sequoia Redwood Forest)**
12:45 pm – 2:40 pm .....**Kids Room (open)** – Anaheim
1:00 pm – 2:30 pm .....**Workshop –** Ballrooms F, G, H, J
6:30 pm – 7:30 pm .....**Dinner Meal Plan** – Ballrooms A-B
7:30 pm – 9:00 pm .....***Special After-Dinner Guest Speaker, Len Sawisch***
9:00 pm – midnight.....**LPA Documentary *Little People*** – Irvine
9:30 pm – 1:30 pm .....**Dancing** – Grand Ballrooms

Friday – July 10th

8:00 am – 12 noon .....**DAAA Boccia** – Ballroom F
8:30 am – 11:00 pm ....**Parents Room (open)** – Newport/Irvine
8:45 am – 12 noon .....**Kids Room (open)** – Anaheim
9:00 am – 10:30 am ....**Parents Meeting** – Newport/Irvine
10:45 am – 12 noon .....**Workshop** – Ballrooms G, H, Santa Clara, Marina, San Ramon
12:30 pm – 3:30 pm .....Annual East/West Baseball Game & Barbeque Lunch
3:00 pm – 4:30 pm .....**Chapter Officers Meeting** –
6:00 pm – 7:00 pm .....**Social Hour** – Ballroom Foyer
7:00 pm – 9:30 pm .....**Banquet Dinner and Awards** – Grand Ballrooms
9:30 pm – 1:30 am .....**Dancing** – Grand Ballrooms

PARENTS AND CHILDREN SCHEDULE

Sunday – July 5th

11:00 am – 12 noon .....**Parents Attending for the First Time** – Newport/Irvine
2:00 pm – 4:00 pm .....**Parents & Medical Advisory Board Welcoming Tea** – Ballroom E
7:00 pm – 9:00 pm .....**Parents Workshop (average-sized only)** – Newport/Irvine
7:00 pm – 8:30 pm .....**Special Children's Program by Unexpected Company** - Anaheim

General Weekday Information

Monday – Friday
Kids Room – Anaheim – Open 8:45 am – 12 noon

Monday – Thursday
Kids Room – Anaheim – Open 12:45 pm to 10 minutes after the end of last workshop. Please pick up children as soon as possible! .....

Monday – Friday
Parents Room – Newport/Irvine – Scene of all **Parents Meetings** (except as noted). Open 8:30 am to 11:00 pm (except 5:00 pm on Tuesday) for small, informal group discussions, one-on-one meetings, etc.

Parents Meeting Topics

Monday – July 6th
9:00 am –9:45 am.....Introductions - general information

Tuesday – July 7th
9:00 am –10:45 am.....Discussion Groups with group leaders discussing concerns and possible solutions - i.e. school challenges.
A. Preschool B. Primary
C. Ages 9 - 12 D. Teens
E. Letting Go - *Shirley and John Figone*
F. Aunts, Uncles, Grandparents - *Joan Weiss*

Wednesday – July 8th
9:00 am –9:45 am.....Resources You Can Use
A. "The Parents Forum" - *Nancy and John Mayeux*
B. How Short Statured Teens and Adults Can Help You - *Harriet Stickney*
C. Printed Materials i.e. books, articles, etc.
D. Other Organizations i.e. HGF, OI, TTS, etc.

Thursday – July 9th
9:00 am –10:30 am.....LPA is Our Group, Let Us Make It a Team Effort

Friday – July 10th
9:00 am –10:30 am Open Mike - So, How Was Your Week?
10:45 am–12 noon.....Workshop – Newport – Preparing Your Child For Surgery - *Bev Wood*

Daly City, CA
(San Mateo Co.)
Record
(Cir. 2xW. 24,250)

JUL 4 - 1992

Allen's P. C. B Est. 1888

Dwarf Athletic Association to hold events on Peninsula

3252

As part of the national conference of the Little People of America, the Dwarf Athletic Association will conduct a number of sporting events on the Peninsula.

The conference is being held through July 10 at the San Francisco Airport Marriott Hotel in Burlingame.

The sports competition serves as a preliminary for the 1992 Para-Olympic Games slated for Barcelona after the Olympic Games.

Other than bocce ball competition, all sports activities will take place at the College of San Mateo.

Here is the schedule:

- Saturday, swimming, 8 a.m. to noon.
- Saturday, field events, 1 to 5 p.m.
- Sunday, track events, 8 a.m. to noon.
- Monday, July 6, power lifting, 8 a.m. to noon.
- Tuesday, July 7, volleyball, 1 to 6 p.m.
- Wednesday, July 8, bocce ball, 8 a.m. to noon.
- Thursday, July 9, bocce ball, 8 to 11 a.m.
- Friday, July 10, bocce ball, 8 a.m. to noon.

Additionally, a basketball clinic for children between the ages of 7 and 15 is scheduled Sunday from 1 to 3 p.m. at CSM.

San Francisco, CA
(San Francisco Co.)
Examiner
(Cir. D. 158,711)

JUL 3 - 1992

Allen's P. C. B Est. 1888

Little People hold convention in S.F.

REUTER 3252

One of the biggest conventions of the summer gets under way in The City Friday when 1,000 members of the Little People of America converge on the city for a week of basketball tournaments, socializing, and workshops.

Oakland, CA
(Alameda Co.)
San Francisco Post
(Cir. 2xW. 25,526)

JUL 8 - 1992

Allen's P. C. B Est. 1888

Little People Gather For Annual Convention

3252

Burlingame (BCN) -- Some 900 people standing 4 feet 10 inches and under and their families have gathered at the San Francisco Airport Marriott Hotel to attend educational workshops, health seminars, fashion shows and sporting events.

The lobby is loud and vibrant with activity as the conference participants talk and reunite with old friends from previous conferences.

Little People of America founder and actor Billy Barty said at a news conference Monday afternoon that the organization and conference are designed to provide support to "small statured" people. Barty said "average sized" people need to change their attitude toward dwarfs. He said little people are not circus sights, but are attorneys, advertising executives, authors and school teachers.

While the conference is a time for little people to gain self-esteem and confidence, conference participant Matt Rolcoff said there is also another unwritten aspect of the annual event.

Rolcoff, 30, said the conference provides a chance for little people to meet and date other little people. Rolcoff, who also has a dwarf brother, 25-year-old Sam, said he met his small wife a few years ago at a conference. They now have twins, one who is a dwarf and one who is average sized.

Rolcoff, who is a computer programmer and lives on a farm, said a lot of marriages are formed as a result of attending Little People of America conferences.

Rolcoff said that along with social activities, the conference provides important medical examinations with doctors experienced in the 200 different types of dwarfism. Parents of dwarfs also attend the conference.

Rolcoff's mother, Peggy Rolcoff, said she has been taking her two sons to the conference since they were young. Her sons told her that the conference was "one week you don't have to look up."

Angela Mayeux, who is average sized and who has two dwarf children -- one by birth and one adopted -- said it is important for parents to have the support group that Little People of America provides. She said parents need to know that there are laws to protect their children from discrimination in schools and later in life. According to Mayeux, 85 percent of dwarfs are born to average-sized parents.

Additional highlights of the conference include athletic competitions sponsored by the Dwarf Athletic Association of America. Athletes will compete in basketball, powerlifting, baseball, table tennis and track and field.

Other events include workshops about the Americans with Disabilities Act, civil and legal rights of little people, overcoming obstacles in the workplace, adoption and health insurance.

Little People of America was founded by Barty 35 years ago in Reno, Nev.

For more information about Little People of America and other "short statured" organizations call 1-800-24-DWARF.

San Francisco, CA
(San Francisco Co.)
San Francisco
Independent
(Cir. W. 220,000)

JUL 7 - 1992

Allen's P. C. B Est. 1888

Little People Hold Big SF Convention

325

S. SAN FRANCISCO — Some 900 dwarfs are gathered at the San Francisco Airport Marriott Hotel this week to participate in the Little People of America National Conference for people under 4 feet 10 inches tall.

At a news conference Monday, Little People founder Billy Barty said the "short statured" people will participate in meetings, educational workshops, health seminars and talent and fashion shows.

Barty said the nonprofit organization has grown tremendously since its first meeting 35 years ago in Reno was attended by 20 people.

Barty said it is important that average-sized people change their attitude about little people. He said little people are not circus sights but are attorneys, advertising executives and school teachers.

Angela Mayeux, who has two dwarf children, said there is discrimination against little people and this conference helps give dwarfs self-esteem and gives support to families with dwarf children. Mayeux said 85 percent of dwarfs are born to average-sized parents.

Peggy Rolcoff says her two dwarf sons, ages 25 and 30, say the conference "is one week you don't have to look up."

— Bay City News Service

Sun-Star photo by Sebastian Smith

Casey Barry, center, dives in during one of the events of the Dwarf Athletic Association of America games.

Standing tall

Dwarfs like Casey Barry overcoming stereotypes

By SEBASTIAN SMITH
Staff Writer

Merced's Casey Barry is like many other 12-year-old girls — she giggles through braces, rides a pony, has just gone to camp and wants to be a million things when she's older.

Then again, she's not like many other girls.

She's a dwarf.

Barry was in Burlingame, just south of San Francisco, this week for the Little People of America national conference held for about 1,000 dwarfs and their tall relatives.

The conference, in tandem with the seventh national games of the Dwarf Athletic Association of America, is a chance for dwarfs to see eyeball to eyeball instead of eyeball to waist.

Barry runs a little bow legged — but she runs.

Her arms are a little short — but she throws.

In fact, although Barry probably will never grow taller than 4 feet 8 inches, her mother, Jean, doesn't even think of her as handicapped.

"Handicapped? She goes on nine-mile hikes," Jean Barry said.

Many dwarfs are in far worse condition than Barry, with buckled legs and withered arms.

At a swim meet in San Mateo Saturday, one boy without limb sockets was

(See BARRY, page A6)

Barry: Mercedian attends conference; dwarfs fighting stereotypes

(From page A1)

constantly bent in unlikely directions, but he swam, pottered around with other tots and drew the crowd's admiration for his ready grin and Stars and Stripes jump suit.

But the courageous Casey Barrys of the dwarf world shouldn't be lionized — nor do they want to be — for their efforts. After all, "they're doing average things," said Len Sawisch, president of the DAAA.

Still, at the Burlingame conference and national dwarf games, there were role models in abundance, leaving behind the images of dwarfs as freaks or side shows.

In 1951, 3-foot-7 Eddie Gaedel popped out of a cake in the Saint Louis Browns stadium and drew a walk on all four pitches — the Detroit pitcher simply couldn't find the midget's strike zone.

But move over Gaedel — America's little people have taken destiny into their own hands.

"They're out for blood," said Janet Brown, executive director of the DAAA, pointing to a pair of lean, pint-sized athletes preparing to swim.

Dwarf teams — officially, dwarfs measure 4 feet 10 inches or less — are playing basketball, swimming and lifting weights at the games.

That's basketball with 10-foot hoops and swimming in Olympic-size pools.

Scott Danberg, 4 feet 8 inches, lifts 280 pounds, more than twice his weight, and won a silver medal in the Seoul Paralympics. The 29-year-old Danberg will be lifting for the U.S. in the Barcelona Paralympics this summer.

Swimmer Colleen Dailey is another midget on the verge of a Paralympic medal.

Saturday, the 30-year-old Texas school teacher, swam 100 meters in 1.32 minutes and trounced German dwarfs who'd come over to check out the competition before next year, when the first dwarf world games will be held in Chicago.

Brown said she tried to persuade groups of English dwarfs to attend the week of games here. But "their remark was, 'Why do you have to take it quite so seriously over here in America?'" Brown said.

One contingent of sports-crazy dwarfs went to San Francisco Saturday night — to watch the Giants play baseball.

(Merced Co.)
Sun-Star
(Cir. 6xW. 23,305)
JUL 6 - 1992
3252

San Mateo Times
July 7, 1992

Pat 1/2

IT'S A SMALL WORLD

3252

LITTLE PEOPLE LEAVE MARK ON PENINSULA

It was a busy weekend of sports activity on the Peninsula for some of the members of the Dwarf Athletic Association. Competitors like Janie Zukas (above) and Rudy Puccella (right) saw action in track and field at the College of San Mateo. Others took part in swimming, basketball, weightlifting and volleyball. The events were part of the national conference of the Little People of America being held in Burlingame.

MONICA DAVEY/The Times

DO NOT REMOVE

Peninsula

The Times Tuesday, July 7, 1992 A3

Little People gathering in Burlingame

Some 900 dwarfs attending convention

Bay City News Service

BURLINGAME — Some 900 people standing 4 feet 10 inches and under and their families have gathered at the San Francisco Airport Marriott Hotel to attend educational workshops, health seminars, fashion shows and sporting events.

The lobby is loud and vibrant with activity as the conference participants talk and reunite with old friends from previous conferences.

Little People of America founder and actor Billy Barty said at a news conference Monday afternoon that the organization and conference are designed to provide support to "small statured" people.

Barty said "average sized" people need to change their attitude toward dwarfs. He said little people are not circus sights, but are attorneys, advertising executives, authors and school teachers.

While the conference is a time for little people to gain self-esteem and confidence, conference participant Matt Rolcoff said there is also another unwritten aspect of the annual event. Rolcoff, 30, said the conference provides a chance for little people to meet and date other little people.

Rolcoff, who also has a dwarf brother, 25-year-old Sam, said he met his small wife a few years ago at a conference. They now have twins, one who is a dwarf and one who is average sized.

Rolcoff, who is a computer programmer and lives on a farm, said a lot of marriages are formed as a result of attending Little People of America conferences.

Rolcoff said that along with social activities, the conference provides important medical examinations with doctors experienced in the 200 different types of dwarfism.

Parents of dwarfs also attend the conference. Rolcoff's mother, Peggy Rolcoff, said she has been taking her two sons to the conference since they were young. Her sons told her that the conference was "one week you don't have to look up."

Angela Mayeux, who is average sized and who has two dwarf children — one by birth and one adopted — said it is important for parents to have the support group that Little People of America provides. She said parents need to know that there are laws to protect their children from discrimination in schools and later in life.

Dwarf Athletic Association competition. B1

According to Mayeux, 85 percent of dwarfs are born to average-sized parents.

Additional highlights of the conference include athletic competitions sponsored by the Dwarf Athletic Association of America. Athletes will compete in basketball, powerlifting, baseball, table tennis and track and field.

Other events include workshops about the Americans with Disabiliites Act, civil and legal rights of little people, overcoming obstacles in the workplace, adoption and health insurance.

A fashion show featuring clothes for dwarfs was held Monday night.

Little People of America was founded by Barty 35 years ago in Reno, Nev. For more information about Little People of America and other short statured organizations call 1-800-24-DWARF.

Part 2/2

San Mateo, CA
(San Mateo Co.)
Times
(Cir. 6xW. 48,793)

JUL 7 - 1992

Allen's P. C. B Est. 1888

Little People gathering in Burlingame

Some 900 dwarfs attending convention

Bay City News Service 3252

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Santa Paula, CA
(Ventura Co.)
Daily Chronicle
(Cir. D. 5,536)

JUL 10 1992

Allen's P.C.B. Est. 1888

Little people confab draws 1,000

3252

BURLINGAME (AP) — People who see David Guzman probably wouldn't consider him a serious threat on the basketball court.

"I start making points and then they say, 'Hey, don't leave him alone,'" said the 26-year-old Guzman, who is a dwarf.

Guzman, who ia among about 1,000 short-statured people attending the 33rd annual Little People of America conference this week, is not the only one trying to shake the dwarf stereotype.

"We're all either in the entertainment industry or midget wrestlers, which makes it difficult to break the realities of life that we are family members, doctors, lawyers," said Marge Carlisle, president of the Little People of America.

Carlisle said employers perceive dwarfs as "less than capable" and little people are often portrayed in demeaning roles on television.

But one way people of short stature show their full capabilities is by holding their own Olympic games. Events this week included track and field, swimming, table tennis, bocci and even basketball.

"It shows we accept the challenges of the average sized world," Carlisle said. "We look at in the way that this is the way we are. We feel good about ourselves."

Jennifer Romano, 18, said she had to convince a driver's education teacher that she could drive with pedal extensions and argued with her high school principal to put a platform at a drinking fountain she couldn't reach.

"Society doesn't accommodate you. You have to learn how to accommodate for yourself because others aren't going to," she said, adding that she wasn't too excited about going back home to Indiana.

"You get used to being around little people. But when you go back (home), it's back to cricks in the neck."

Many LPA members are average-size parents of dwarf children facing social barriers and medical hassles.

Betsy Trombino of Phoenix, Ariz. said she felt "absolute shock" when she was told her son, Mark, would be a dwarf.

"I had never heard of anything like this. I probably saw one short person in my life," Trombino said.

But Mark's size hasn't deterred him from succeeding, she said. Mark, who has had 12 surgeries to straighten his bones, began driving at 16 and will be finishing college this year.

Antioch, CA
(Contra Costa Co.)
Daily Ledger-Post
Dispatch
(Cir. D. 21,923)

JUL 10 1992

Allen's P.C.B. Est. 1888

Dwarfs convention draws nearly 1,000

3252

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Las Vegas, NV
(Clark Co.)
Review Journal
(Cir. D. 114,269)

JUL 10 1992

Allen's P. C. B Est. 1888

Dwarfs look to beat law of averages

3252

Associated Press

BURLINGAME, Calif. — Dwarfs meeting this week said making the average-size world suitable for them is a simple matter of lowering a light switch or adding a few steps.

It's the image of the short-statured that's tough to shake.

"We're all either in the entertainment industry or midget wrestlers, which makes it difficult to break the realities of life that we are family members, doctors, lawyers," said Marge Carlisle, president of the Little People of America.

Nearly 1,000 people showed up for the 33rd annual Little People of America convention, a week-long event ending Friday.

Carlisle said employers perceive dwarfs as "less than capable" and little people are often portrayed in demeaning roles on television.

But one way people of short stature show their full capabilities is by holding their own Olympic games. Events include track and field, swimming, table tennis, bocci and even basketball.

"It shows we accept the challenges of the average sized world," Carlisle said.

Three-time table tennis champ David Guzman also plays basketball with the five-time champions LA Breakers dwarf team.

Guzman, 26, started shooting hoops with average size people when he was a teen, but he wasn't considered a serious threat on the court.

"I start making points and then they say, 'Hey, don't leave him alone,'" Guzman said.

Jennifer Romano, 18, said she had to convince a driver's education teacher that she could drive with pedal extensions and argued with her high school principal to put a platform at a drinking fountain she couldn't reach.

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Napa, CA
(Napa Co.)
Napa Valley Register
(Cir. 6xW. 21,841)

JUL 1 0 1992

Allen's P. C. B Est. 1888

Little people's convention draws 1,000

3252

BURLINGAME (AP) – People who see David Guzman probably wouldn't consider him a serious threat on the basketball court.

"I start making points and then they say, 'Hey, don't leave him alone,'" said the 26-year-old Guzman, who is a dwarf.

Guzman, who ia among about 1,000 short-statured people attending the 33rd annual Little People of America conference this week, is not the only one trying to shake the dwarf stereotype.

"We're all either in the entertainment industry or midget wrestlers, which makes it difficult to break the realities of life that we are family members, doctors, lawyers," said Marge Carlisle, president of the Little People of America.

Carlisle said employers perceive dwarfs as "less than capable" and little people are often portrayed in demeaning roles on television.

But one way people of short stature show their full capabilities is by holding their own Olympic games. Events this week included track and field, swimming, table tennis, bocci and even basketball.

"It shows we accept the challenges of the average sized world," Carlisle said. "We look at in the way that this is the way we are. We feel good about ourselves."

Jennifer Romano, 18, said she had to convince a driver's education teacher that she could drive with pedal extensions and argued with her high school principal to put a platform at a drinking fountain she couldn't reach.

"Society doesn't accommodate you. You have to learn how to accommodate for yourself because others aren't going to," she said, adding that she wasn't too excited about going back home to Indiana.

"You get used to being around little people. But when you go back (home), it's back to cricks in the neck."

Many LPA members are average-size parents of dwarf children facing social barriers and medical hassles.

Betsy Trombino of Phoenix, Ariz. said she felt "absolute shock" when she was told her son, Mark, would be a dwarf.

"I had never heard of anything like this. I probably saw one short person in my life," Trombino said.

But Mark's size hasn't deterred him from succeeding, she said. Mark, who has had 12 surgeries to straighten his bones, began driving at 16 and will be finishing college this year.

"He's everything I'd want a son to be," she said.

LPA was founded by Billy Barty, a Hollywood actor who has appeared in more than 200 films, including "Tough Guys," "Willow," and "Rumpelstiltskin."

Oxnard, CA
(Ventura Co.)
Press-Courier
(Cir. D. 19,715)
(Cir. S. 20,476)

JUL 11 1992

Allen's P. C. B. Est. 1888

1,000 little people attend convention

3252

BURLINGAME (AP) — Dwarfs meeting here this week said making the average-size world suitable for them is a simple matter of lowering a light switch or adding a few steps.

It's the image of the short-statured that's tough to shake.

"We're all either in the entertainment industry or midget wrestlers, which makes it difficult to break the realities of life that we are family members, doctors, lawyers," said Marge Carlisle, president of the Little People of America.

Nearly 1,000 people showed up for the 33rd annual Little People of America convention, a week-long event ending Friday.

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Three-time table tennis champ David Guzman also plays basketball with the five-time champions LA Breakers dwarf team.

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Danville, CA
(Contra Costa Co.)
San Ramon Valley Times
(Cir. D. 17,500)

JUL 10 1992

Allen's P. C. B Est. 1888

Little people convention registers a big turnout

3252

By Dara Tom
Associated Press

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The Press Democrat

Life D

Older workers good for business? 2

Santa Rosa, California, Monday, July 13, 1992 •

Short story

Tim Randles of Canton, Ohio, uses a temporary step to reach the phone at the Airport Marriott.

JOHN BURGESS/PRESS DEMOCRAT

Social events such as dances are held at the Little People of America convention to help

Giving little people a big boost

By MEG McCONAHEY
Staff Writer

SAN FRANCISCO — Peter Norman once related to his incredulous sister-in-law the complex gymnastics required to place a simple phone call.

Norman described how he was forced to summon the paranormal skills of Spiderman and the Flying Wallendas to use a public phone, first scaling the smooth glass wall, then negotiating a perch in mid-air while leaving one hand free to pick up the receiver, insert a coin and punch in a number.

"It's cool. You don't have to look up. I can relate more to kids my own size."

KATE NORMAN

It's telling that his tall sister-in-law Ann McGuire still remembers the Houdini-like feat 20 years later, but Norman does not. For the 4-foot-9-inch aerospace technician from Fremont, ingenuity and acrobatics are just part and parcel of being a little person in an ill-fitting world.

Thankfully, there is one week a year when the world shrinks to size for small people like Norman, his 4-foot-4-inch wife Kathy, and equally petite daughters Kate, 15, and Eileen, 10.

They were among nearly 1,000 diminutive folks from throughout the U.S. and Canada who gathered in San Francisco last week for the annual Little People of America Convention, the first time the group has met in California in 12 years.

Thankfully there were no phone problems for Norman at the Airport Marriott last week. Risers were set up at places like public phones and the check-in desk for the ease of guests weary of standing on tiptoe.

Launched 35 years ago by veteran dwarf actor Billy Barty — dwarf is the current "politically correct" term for little people — the 3,000 member organization offers friendship, information, support, recreation and often, romance for those who, because of genetic abnormalities or medical problems, are destined to live their lives at the eye level of a child. The tallest in the group are 4 feet 10 inches. Most are under 4 feet.

"This is very heartwarming. We started with only a handful of people. Now we're in 16 foreign countries. But there are 1.5 million of us (in the world). There are a lot more little people we have to reach," declares Barty, a dapper figure in a business suit who oversees the doings from the seat of a motor scooter. The pocket-sized vehicle allows the tireless showman to move faster among the crowd and reduces strain on his

See Short, back page

Cheryl Murphy of Newport Beach auditions for the talent show while Billy Barty, the founder of Little People of America, looks on.

Short

Continued from Page D1

3-foot-9-inch frame. Chronic orthopedic problems are a common ailment among little people.

The convention offers a wide range of informational workshops and discussion groups to help the small-statured cope in an often unkind and ignorant world. Conventioneers can also browse among vendors selling souvenir T-shirts, stylish clothing patterns scaled to the dwarf physique and custom-made miniature chairs to eliminate the annoyment of dangling feet.

But many confess that what brings them back year after year is the joy of simply blending into the crowd and for once, not being different.

"It's cool. You don't have to look up," said Kate Norman, a tiny but otherwise typical teen clad in trendy shortalls and athletic shoes. "I can relate more to kids my own size — although you can't ask them to get you stuff like you can with taller friends."

Kate and some 50 other short-statured teens reveled in dancing shoulder to shoulder until 1 a.m. and checking out hot spots like the Hard Rock Cafe without fear of being stared at.

They scooped up fashionable leggings in hot colors, and matching hand-painted T-shirts whipped up in flattering, dwarf size proportions by Mill Valley artist Annie Denberg, at 4-foot-4-inches one of the tallest in the crowd.

And they held long rap sessions about coping with the endless and "stupid" questions like "Were you that small as a baby?" or "Where do you buy your clothes?" To the latter inanity, 3-foot-11-inch Kate retorts, "A store just like everyone else."

In fact, so comfortable is Kate with her stature that minutes after the birth of her little sister 10 years ago she was heard to ask, "Is she a dwarf?" When doctors pronounced that Eileen had also inherited the gene, she declared, "Oh, good. Now we're a whole little family."

The Normans, who like many in their generation went through childhood without meeting another little person, credit the annual conventions and regional social gatherings with fostering an unprecedented level of confidence in their children.

"It's a real self-esteem booster for all of us," said Kathy Norman. "It's wonderful to see our kids have such a great time with friends and feeling positive and healthy about who they are."

Years of effort and public education by relentless advocates like Barty are finally paying off in a younger, no-nonsense group of little people who refuse to be patronized like Munchkins or to let a few inches get in the way of a normal life.

"I play basketball in school," says Aaron Fair, a freckled and confident, 43-inch fifth grader from New Hampshire who won two medals last week in dwarf sports competition. "I'm not much of a shooter, but I pass pretty well."

Seven years ago a Dwarf Athletic Association was set up to offer competitive sports for frustrated little people tired of being on the sidelines. Although the net is dropped to 5 feet for volleyball, hoopsters insist on using a typical 10-foot basket. Battles are fiercely waged on the court and the audience of peers is as raucous as any NBA playoff crowd.

Nicole Dinner, a plucky 13-year-old from Walnut Creek, is typical of the newly empowered youth who refuse to take any guff.

When boorish San Francisco deejay Man Cow Muller began going for cheap yucks by taking on-air shots at the little people, Dinner was prepared to get on the horn and set him straight.

"He should keep his feelings to himself or come down here and see we're just normal average people like everyone else," said the 3-foot-8-inch teen, clearly outraged. "Truly he must be very ignorant."

From: Allen's P.C.F

TIMES

SCRANTON, PA
DAILY 45,178

WEDNESDAY
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Dwarf Actor Billy Barty Asks for Only One Thing: Some Respect

By ROBIN D. GIVHAN
San Francisco Chronicle

Show World

Billy Barty got his big break in show business by spinning on his head.

Movie know-it-alls will match the name with films such as "Day of the Locust," "Willow" and "Under the Rainbow." Most everyone else will simply identify the face as the one belonging to the little person they've seen on TV and in all those movies.

Just to clarify, Barty was not the shark lawyer on "L.A. Law." That was David Rappaport, who died in 1990. Nor was Barty the guy who announced incoming planes on "Fantasy Island." That was Herve Villechaize.

Barty, 67, has only two things in common with those other actors — all three have had some Hollywood success and all three are shorter than average. Barty stands 3 feet 9 inches tall and is the founder of Little People of America, whose annual convention was held recently in San Francisco.

But people get confused about Barty. They think short, they think actor. Soon they've made a muddle of three very different careers. And rather than shuffling about in politically correct silence, Barty would much rather get to the point.

And so, back to ... the spinning.

Barty was spinning because his father had taught him how. As a 3-year-old of short stature and disproportionately short arms, Barty couldn't reach the bottom of his pockets and dig out coins. Dad — he was a normal-sized dad — had the nifty notion of an upside-down spin to make the coins fall out. This procedure worked so well that Barty would flip and spin whenever he needed to retrieve anything from his pockets.

These early gymnastic lessons were in small-town Pennsylvania, where Barty was born. Barty's father knew his son would never work in the Pennsylvania coal mines — a major employer at the time. So Dad, a machinist who played drums, piano and violin in a small band, moved the family to California.

Now it's 1927, the family has just settled in Hollywood, and Barty is an expert spinner. The family wanders onto a movie set. Film makers back then shot many movies on the street. Barty does his spinning trick and in a flash he's plucked from the street and plopped into a movie.

His role? To be cute.

That was the beginning of a 65-year-long show-biz career, which has included performances in everything from vaudeville to drama. Over that many years, cuteness fades. Wisdom arrives. Savviness grows. Crankiness sets in.

"I think Hollywood is worse than it used to be. How many little people do you see doing news, doing comedy, doing commercials? None," Barty says.

"In the days when there were lots of variety shows, (Hollywood) used more little people. They used to work in variety shows. What happened? Lack of imagination."

Barty also is a bit annoyed over missing an Oscar nomination, which he suspects may be tied to his short stature.

"I've done roles like 'Day of the Locust,' which was a pretty heavy part," Barty says. "Lots of critics thought I should have gotten a nomination."

And don't forget the gap between public reaction and Hollywood assumption.

"I wish Hollywood realized how the general public looks at me. It surprises me that I'm that popular anymore, like ..." Barty pauses and grasps for the name of a star who also happens to be alive, but comes up empty. "... like Clark Gable. And I haven't made a film in 1 1/2 years."

But Barty is, of course, still performing. Call him Mr. Hollywood. He doesn't just shake hands, he kisses them. He doesn't simply smile for the camera, he mugs for it. He doesn't just play golf, he wins charity tournaments.

And he doesn't just campaign for a cause, he's the celebrity spokesman.

Barty helped found the Little People of America, a nonprofit organization, in 1957 to bring little people — folks who measure 4-foot-10 and less — together for social events and educational workshops.

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